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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SMITH of Nebraska).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

June 23, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ADRIAN SMITH to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2014, the Chair would now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 1 minute p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. STEWART) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:
Loving and gracious God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Help us this day to draw closer to You, so that with Your spirit, and aware of Your presence among us, we may all face the tasks of this day with grace and confidence.

Bless the Members of the people's House as they return from constituent visits over the past weekend.

May these decisive days through which we are living be an opportunity for them to rise to the challenges of governing well and addressing the needs of our Nation. Give them the wisdom and the courage to fail not their fellow citizens, nor You.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. FOXX led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

PREMIUMS ARE HURTING FAMILIES

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the President's broken promises continue to hurt American fami-

lies. According to the administration's own report, an estimated 11 million small business employees are facing higher premiums because of the government health care takeover, which destroys jobs.

After being forced to purchase insurance in the ObamaCare exchange, Stepheni from Aiken writes:

"This required purchase of ObamaCare insurance cost my husband and I over \$900 per month and we get nothing for it. It's less expense for us to remain uninsured, so we have let our ObamaCare premium lapse. We surely hope that something will and can be done to prevent folks like us from being penalized for not keeping our insurance. We don't have over \$900 extra a month just to throw away."

The Affordable Care Act is anything but affordable for families and should be repealed and replaced to provide relief for millions of Americans like Stepheni. Women are most knowledgeable about the failure of ObamaCare.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

VA CLAIMS BENEFITS BACKLOG

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, as the President looks for a new VA Secretary, it is imperative that we not let the veterans health care scandal distract from the ongoing efforts to resolve the VA benefits claims backlog.

The VA has undertaken important reforms to streamline the process, such as electronic records and working to ensure that initial claims include all necessary information. These steps are helping to address the backlog; but as the scandal in the health care side of the VA continues to unfold and demand the attention of policymakers, we must

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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